

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for treating dry skin and/or dry scalp, comprising the topical application thereto of a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one oxysterol selected from the group consisting of 5-cholesten-3 $\beta$ ,25-diol-7-one and esters and ethers thereof.
2. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the oxysterol is 5-cholesten-3 $\beta$ ,25-diol-7-one.
- 10 3. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the oxysterol represents from 0.05% to 1% of the total weight of the composition.
4. The process according to Claim 1, wherein application is to oligoseborrhoeic dry skin.
- 15 5. The process according to Claim 1, wherein the said composition is applied to the dry skin and/or dry scalp of a women over forty years old.
6. A process for treating for treating one or more disorders associated with oligoseborrhoeic dry skin comprising applying to oligoseborrhoeic dry skin a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one oxysterol selected from the group consisting of 5-cholesten-3 $\beta$ ,25-diol-7-one and esters and ethers thereof
- 20 7. The process according to Claim 6, wherein the said disorders are forms of
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dermatitis.

8. A composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one oxysterol selected from the group consisting of 5-cholesten-3 $\beta$ ,25-diol-7-one and the esters and ethers thereof, and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a desquamating agent, a moisturizer, a calmative, an agent for promoting keratinocyte proliferation and/or differentiation, and an antibacterial agent.

9. The composition according to Claim 8, comprising a desquamating agent.

10. The composition according to Claim 9, wherein the said desquamating agent is selected from the group consisting of: salicylic acid;  $\alpha$ -hydroxy acids; urea; gentisic acid; oligofucoses; cinnamic acid; extract of *Saphora japonica*; resveratrol; EDTA; N-acyl-N,N',N'-ethylenediaminetriacetic acid; aminosulphonic compounds; derivatives of 2-oxothiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid (procysteine); honey; O-octanoyl-6-D-maltose and N-acetylglucosamine.

11. The composition according to Claim 8, comprising a moisturizer selected from the group consisting of: ceramides, sphingoid-based compounds, lecithins, glycosphingolipids, phospholipids, cholesterol and its derivatives, phytosterols,

essential fatty acids, 1,2-diacylglycerol,  
4-chromanone, pentacyclic triterpenes; threalose and  
its derivatives, hyaluronic acid and its derivatives,  
glycerol, pentanediol, sodium pidolate, serine,  
5 xylitol, sodium lactate, polyglyceryl acrylate, ectoin  
and its derivatives, chitosan, oligosaccharides and  
polysaccharides, cyclic carbonates, N-lauroyl-  
pyrrolidonecarboxylic acid and N- $\alpha$ -benzoyl-L-arginine;  
DHEA and its derivatives; and vitamin D and its  
10 derivatives.

12. The composition according to Claim 8,  
comprising a calmative selected from the group  
consisting of: pentacyclic triterpenes; extracts of  
Paeonia suffruticosa and/or lactiflora, of Rosmarinus  
15 officinalis, of epilobium, of Pygeum, of Boswellia  
serrata, of Centipeda cunninghami, of Helianthus  
annuus, of Cola nitida, of clove and of Bacopa moniera;  
salicylic acid salts; extracts of algae; Canola oil,  
Tamanu oil, beauty-leaf oil, omega-3-unsaturated oils  
20 such as musk rose oil, blackcurrant oil, ecchium oil,  
fish oil;  $\alpha$ -bisabolol and extracts of camomile;  
allantoin; the phosphoric diester of vitamins E and C;  
capryloylglycine; tocotrienols; piperonal; aloe vera;  
phytosterols; cortisone, hydrocortisone, indomethacin  
25 and beta-methasone; a strain of *Vitreoscilla*  
*filiformis*, an aqueous extract of *Iris pallida*; and an

aqueous-glycol extract of *Rosa gallica* petals.

13. The composition according to Claim 8, comprising an agent for promoting keratinocyte proliferation that is a retinoid.

5           14. The composition according to Claim 8, comprising an antibacterial agent selected from the group consisting of: triclosan, phenoxyethanol, octoxyglycerol, octanoylglycine, 10-hydroxy-2-decanoic acid, caprylyl glycol, farnesol and azelaic acid.

10           15. The Composition according to Claim 8, wherein said composition is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

            16. The Composition according to Claim 10, wherein said composition is in the form of an oil-in-  
15 water emulsion.

            17. The Composition according to Claim 11, wherein said composition is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

            18. The Composition according to Claim 12,  
20 wherein said composition is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

            19. The Composition according to Claim 13, wherein said composition is in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion.

25           20. The Composition according to Claim 14, wherein said composition is in the form of an oil-in-

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water emulsion.